United Nations S/2002/1375

# Security Council

Distr.: General
19 December 2002

Original: English

## Letter dated 16 December 2002 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

Please find attached for your consideration and for the consideration of the members of the Security Council a letter, dated 12 December 2002, from the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Navanethem Pillay (see annex).

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

02-74887 (E) 191202

## Annex

### Letter dated 12 December 2002 from the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour of writing to you concerning the invitation I had extended to representatives of the Republic of Rwanda to visit the Tribunal.

On 22 October 2002, in my capacity as President of the Tribunal, I extended an invitation to the Minister of Justice and Institutional Relations of Rwanda, Mr. Jean de Dieu Mucyo, the President of the Supreme Court of Rwanda, Judge Simeon Rwagasore, and the Prosecutor General of Rwanda, Mr. Gerald Gahima, to visit the Tribunal and to observe first hand the judicial proceedings. Such a visit would have also given us the opportunity to brief the delegation in detail on the organization and functioning of the Tribunal, as well as enabled us to discuss matters of mutual concern.

During the course of 2002, relations with Rwanda have deteriorated to the point where two Trial Chambers were obliged to remind the Government of its obligation to cooperate with the Tribunal, in particular with regard to the transfer of witnesses from Rwanda. On 26 July and 2 August 2002, I requested the Security Council to implement such measures as it deemed appropriate to ensure that the Tribunal could complete its mandate.

When I presented the Tribunal's annual report to the General Assembly and the Security Council on 28 and 29 October 2002, I reported that Rwanda accepted my invitation to visit the Tribunal and expressed optimism that some of our difficulties would be resolved during that visit.

The visit was scheduled to take place on 10 December 2002, however, on 9 December, I received a fax from the Minister of Justice and Institutional Relations, Mr. Jean de Dieu Mucyo, indicating that his delegation would not be visiting the Tribunal as originally scheduled and that the visit should be postponed. The Honourable Minister gave no indication as to a date to which the visit should be postponed. I will nevertheless, once again, pursue this matter early in 2003, as it is of the utmost importance that all difficulties experienced by the Tribunal be resolved as soon as possible.

In light of the above, I would be grateful if you could inform the President of the Security Council of the indefinite postponement of the visit by the Rwandan delegation to the Tribunal.

(*Signed*) Judge Navanethem **Pillay**
President